



**National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Apostle Islands  
National Lakeshore**

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## **Apostle Islands News Release**

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### **NPS Restoring Historic Hokenson Brothers Fishery Dock**

The National Park Service has initiated a major restoration project involving the historic dock at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore's Hokenson Brothers Fishery. Located just to the west of the public harbor at Little Sand Bay, the historic Hokenson Brothers Fishery is part of a complex representing one of the most intact family-operated commercial fishing and packing operations on Lake Superior. Built in 1927, the dock was the first structure built within the complex. The Hokenson brothers, Eskel, Roy, and Leo constructed the dock and made repairs and modifications due to changing lake and weather conditions until the late 1950's.

Over time, major features of the dock deteriorated to the point of ill-repair. Recently, the park received funding through the National Park Service Repair/ Rehabilitation program. Park facility management staff built replicas of the old dock cribs (20 feet by 12 feet by 8 feet high) during the past winter. The cribs are huge boxes made out of logs that are the foundation of the dock, holding it in place. They are filled with rip-rap (large stone) that anchors the wooden structures. Framing, decking and hardware will be installed over the cribs. A contract was recently awarded to S.E.R. Inc. for the demolition of the old cribs and the installation of the new. The park plans to reuse the rip-rap from the old cribbing. Ken Dobson, President of S.E.R. noted: "We need to place the new cribs right away after demolition, or we will lose the old rip-rap in the sand."

Hokenson Brothers Fishery is important not only because it represents Great Lakes commercial fishing during the first half of the twentieth century, but also for its interpretive value to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. It provides visitors with an easily accessible opportunity to learn about an important aspect of the region's social and economic development.

On-site construction has recently begun and will continue into the first half of the summer.

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